

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Upon entry of the Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1-26 will have been canceled, new Claims 27-52 will have been added, and Claims 27-52 will be pending. The above amendments and following remarks are responsive to the points raised in the final Office Action mailed January 11, 2005. No new matter has been introduced. Entry of this Preliminary Amendment and continued examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Response to Objection of the Specification

The Examiner has, in effect, objected to the specification on the bases that the title is not descriptive.

Applicants have amended the title of the invention to overcome the Examiner's objection. Accordingly, the objection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to suggest an acceptable title to Applicants, should the newly amended title be unacceptable to the Examiner.

Response to the Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 21, 23, and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over published European Patent Application EP 0 860 978 A2 to Fukasaka et al. (Fukasaka). Claims 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 17-20, 22, 24, and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukasaka. Claims 3, 6, 13, and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukasaka in view of US Patent 5,864,411 to Norris. Claims 5 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Fukasaka in view of US Patent 6,542,184 to Driscoll, Jr., et al. (Driscoll). Applicants traverse these rejections. Claims 1-26 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, in favor of newly added Claims 27-52.

The present invention is characterized in that an image input system includes an image input device and a computer. Information indicating an operation mode set in the image input device is transmitted to the computer when the image input device and the computer are connected, communication between the image input device and the computer is established, and a control unit selects a software program, which corresponds to the operation mode set in the image input device, from the plurality of software programs and make start the selected software program.

In the system disclosed by Fukasaka, an application start signal is sent from a camera controller to the computer and an application in the computer is started when a shutter button of the camera is pushed. Further, the cited reference of Fukasaka discloses that an OCR application is started in the computer when a document mode is set in the camera.

The cited reference of Fukasaka discloses that the application in the computer is started by using the pushing operation of the shutter button of the camera or setting operation of the document mode or the camera as a trigger, after the camera and the computer are connected. In the present invention, it is used as a trigger that the image input device and the computer are connected and a communication between the image input device and the computer is established. This feature is not disclosed by the reference of Fukasaka. The secondary references of Norris and Driscoll neither teach, suggest, nor otherwise render obvious the subject matter recited in new Claims 27-52, either alone or in combination with Fukasaka.

In view of the above, the subject matter recited in newly added Claims 27-52 is

distinguished over the applied prior art references of Fukasaka, Norris, and Driscoll, either alone or in combination.

Accordingly, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 27-52 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

AUTHORIZATIONS

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for filing this application, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4568. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,

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